

Extract from:

DERBYSHIRE CAVING CLUB
NEWSLETTER, MAY 1969.

Once again we must apologise for the delay in the publication of this Newsletter and the only excuse we can give is the pressure of other events. This is, never the less, a justifiable excuse as the past couple of months seem to have been busier than our 'usual busy times. To start with there was the Manx expedition, which eventually did take place. This was followed by a Quarterly General Meeting and later by a Committee meeting, a Cave Rescue Team meeting and practice and various other odds and ends. Just to make things a bit more interesting all the 'usual pre-departure panic of the Italian expedition is now in full swing. In between times there have been a lot of field meetings, both caving and climbing, and consequently not much time for writing. Still this must be considered as a good thing and a sign of a very active club.

Recent field meets.

Manx Geological Survey

This expedition eventually got off the ground after what appeared to be a false start and four very enjoyable days were spent exploring the mines on the island. Since the return we have heard terrible tales of man eating conger eels, of being marooned on a sea swept rock for hours on end, of Todge doing a "Blondini" act on a scaling pole over a flooded shaft. The full report on this expedition is to be published very soon so we don't intend going into much detail at this stage. Sufficient to say that this has a very successful venture that managed to accomplish most of what it set out to do. Descents were made of the North Bradda Mine, the Glen Chass mine and the Glen Rushen mines. Descents were also made of the "chasms" and the adit level of the Great Laxey mine. The geologists were in their element and collected enough samples to sink the "Manx Maid". It seems, however, that there is some dishonesty among the geologists and we are investigating the mystery of the disappearing rock samples from Laxey, where some particularly good examples of copper ore apparently just up and walked off of their own accord. "Who is the phantom rock 'nicker'?" They all deny it but it's our bet that one of them is sitting at home gloating and chortling to himself. Any way it was apparently a very good trip and it is hoped to organise another trip in September. People interested in this should contact Stan Gee or Bert Lewis as soon as possible but remember it's hard work, it must be as John White was apparently "fair tuckered out" at the end of this trip.

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